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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A sealing material for an ant groove that is fitted to the ant groove made in a surface of either one of a pair of members, that is in a joint place between these members and that makes contact with a surface of the member facing the ant groove, thereby sealing both of the members,

with the sealing material comprising:

an elastically deformable material; and

a sectional shape having: a straight bottom edge which is disposed on a bottom face of said ant groove, with said straight bottom edge having a first end and a second end; an arched convex edge which makes contact with the surface of said member facing said ant groove; a first projecting edge which connects with said first end of said straight bottom edge and projects obliquely outside from said first end of said straight bottom edge; a concave inlet portion which is located between said first projecting edge and said arched convex edge; a second projecting edge which connects with the second end of said straight bottom edge and is composed of straight lines, with the second projecting edge projecting obliquely outside from said second end of said straight bottom edge; a straight sloping edge of which one end connects directly with an end of said arched convex edge that is opposite to said first projecting edge and of which the other end connects directly with said second projecting edge; and ~~at least one~~ a corner portion which is found in a

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~~range that extends from said straight bottom edge via a connecting portion of said second projecting edge to and said straight sloping edge;~~

wherein: when the sealing material for the ant groove is fitted to said ant groove, said concave inlet portion is disposed on an opening edge of the ant groove, and then an entirety of the sealing material for the ant groove is made to gyrate toward an inside of the ant groove around said concave inlet portion as a base point, so that the sealing material for the ant groove gets pressed into the ant groove in a state where a periphery of said corner portion is elastically deformed.

7. (previously presented) A sealing material for an ant groove according to claim 6, wherein a maximum value X of distances of from said corner portion to said concave inlet portion has a relationship of $X/B = 1.00-1.10$ with an opening width B of said ant groove.

8. (currently amended) A sealing material for an ant groove according to claim 6 or 7, wherein:

said second projecting edge is formed by connecting a pair of straight edges together at an angle; and

[said] another corner portion is [constituted in the following three places: a place] disposed between said straight bottom edge and said second projecting edge; and still another corner portion is disposed between said pair of straight edges at an elbow place of said second projecting edge [; and a place between said second projecting edge and said sloping edge].

9. (previously presented) A sealing material for an ant groove according to any one of claims 6 and 7, which:

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further comprises a vertical edge connecting said arched convex edge and said concave inlet portion together; and

makes a clearance between said vertical edge and an opening edge of said ant groove when fitted to said ant groove.

10. (previously presented) A sealing material for an ant groove according to claim 6, wherein said ant groove is formed into a ring shape, and said sealing material is formed into a ring shape corresponding to said ring shaped ant groove, and is fitted to said ring shaped ant groove, with said ring shape having an outer peripheral side and an inner peripheral side, with the sealing material comprising:

a structure such that said first projecting edge and said concave inlet portion are located at the outer peripheral side of said ring shape;

a structure such that said second projecting edge, said straight sloping edge, and said corner portion are located at the inner peripheral side of said ring shape; and

a peripheral length extended by 1-10 % in a state fitted to said ant groove of the ring shape when compared with a free state of said sealing material.

11. (previously presented) A sealing material for an ant groove according to claim 8, which:

further comprises a vertical edge connecting said arched convex edge and said concave inlet portion together; and

makes a clearance between said vertical edge and an opening edge of said ant groove when fitted to said ant groove.

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12. (previously presented) A sealing material according to either of claims 6 or 7 and in combination with said ant groove, wherein said ant groove comprises a substantially trapezoidal shape in section, with the ant groove having an opening and a bottom opposite the opening, with the opening having a length running transversely to the sealing material, with the bottom having a length running transversely to the sealing material, and with the length of the bottom being greater than the length of the opening such that said ant groove is dovetail shaped in section.

13. (currently amended) A sealing material for an ant groove that is fitted to the ant groove made in a surface of either one of a pair of members, that is in a joint place between these members and that makes contact with a surface of the member facing the ant groove, thereby sealing both of the members,

with the sealing material comprising:

an elastically deformable material; and

a sectional shape having: a straight bottom edge which is disposed on a bottom face of said ant groove, with said straight bottom edge having a first end and a second end; an arched convex edge which makes contact with the surface of said member facing said ant groove; a first projecting edge which connects with said first end of said straight bottom edge and projects obliquely outside directly from said first end of said straight bottom edge, with the first projecting edge being one of a) a convex edge; and b) a combination of a convex edge and a straight edge; a concave inlet portion which is located between said first projecting edge and said arched convex edge; a second projecting edge which connects with the second end of said straight bottom edge and is composed of straight lines, with the second

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projecting edge projecting obliquely outside directly from said second end of said straight bottom edge; a straight sloping edge of which one end connects directly with an end of said arched convex edge that is opposite to said first projecting edge and of which the other end connects directly with said second projecting edge; and at least one corner portion which is found in a range that extends from said straight bottom edge via said second projecting edge to said straight sloping edge;

wherein: when the sealing material for the ant groove is fitted to said ant groove, said concave inlet portion is disposed on an opening edge of the ant groove, and then an entirety of the sealing material for the ant groove is made to gyrate toward an inside of the ant groove around said concave inlet portion as a base point, so that the sealing material for the ant groove gets pressed into the ant groove in a state where a periphery of said corner portion is elastically deformed.

14. (currently amended) A sealing material for an ant groove that is fitted to the ant groove made in a surface of either one of a pair of members, that is in a joint place between these members and that makes contact with a surface of the member facing the ant groove, thereby sealing both of the members,

with the sealing material comprising:
an elastically deformable material; and
a sectional shape having: a straight bottom edge which is disposed on a bottom face of said ant groove, with said straight bottom edge having a first end and a second end; an arched convex edge which makes contact with the surface of said member facing said ant groove; a first projecting edge which connects with said first end of said straight bottom

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edge and projects obliquely outside directly from said first end of said straight bottom edge; a concave inlet portion which is located between said first projecting edge and said arched convex edge; a second projecting edge which connects with the second end of said straight bottom edge and projects obliquely outside directly from said second end of said straight bottom edge, with the second projection edge being one of a) a straight edge; and b) a combination of a pair of straight edges set at an angle to each other; a straight sloping edge of which one end connects directly with an end of said arched convex edge that is opposite to said first projecting edge and of which the other end connects directly with said second projecting edge; and at least one corner portion which is found in a range that extends from said straight bottom edge via said second projecting edge to said straight sloping edge;

wherein: when the sealing material for the ant groove is fitted to said ant groove, said concave inlet portion is disposed on an opening edge of the ant groove, and then an entirety of the sealing material for the ant groove is made to gyrate toward an inside of the ant groove around said concave inlet portion as a base point, so that the sealing material for the ant groove gets pressed into the ant groove in a state where a periphery of said corner portion is elastically deformed.

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